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SIPDIS

AIDAC FOR ANE/MEA MWOOLFORD

NEA/PI FOR RWADHWANI OR NEA/PI CBOURGEOIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMGT OTRA YM

SUBJECT: MEPI EDUCATION: DEVELOPING THE "PARTERNSHIP SCHOOLS"

CONCEPT

REF: STATE 11812

Below is Post's response to reftel questions:

¶11. On January 27, 2004, Post met with the Vice Minister of Education, Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Habtoor, to discuss the MEPI Partnership Schools Initiative. Dr. Habtoor was responsive to the Partnership Schools concept and will provide further feedback and guidance after consultations within the Ministry of Education (MoE).

¶12. The Republic of Yemen Government (ROYG) is committed to specific reforms and improvements in basic education (grades 1-9) and has already taken several steps towards the development and modernization of the education sector. The MoE is implementing its Basic Education Development Strategy (BEDS) designed to expand access for children, especially girls, in rural areas, improve quality, and increase efficiency of education. Examples of on-going activities include school construction, school mapping, community participation, and teachers' deployment and training. Through these policies and reforms, the MoE is hoping to achieve at least 95% of the net enrolment in the basic education cycle of grades 1-9 by 2015. The donor community (UNICEF, EU, GTZ, WB, Dutch Embassy, DFID, WFP, and USAID) has been and must continue to provide financial and technical support to the education sector for Yemen to meet this lofty goal.

¶13. The ROYG is executing their education reforms jointly with the donor community. The governorates with the most active support in education reform are: Taiz, Aden, Hodeidah, and Sana'a. The USG is working with the ROYG in five rural, underdeveloped, and underserved governorates (Marib, Saada, Al-Jawf, Amran, and Shabwa) to execute their basic education strategy. Support for education reform in these governorates is strong, especially as assistance to these areas has been extremely limited.

¶14. The national government is responsible for the primary and secondary education of students. However, the ROYG is in the midst of a decentralization program designed to transfer budgeting and planning responsibilities to the governorate, district, and local levels. The ROYG spends USD 174 to 188 per pupil per year on basic education.

¶15. Though education in Yemen is supposed to be free, there are other expenditures that must be covered by families/students, which equal approximately USD 10.5 per student per year. These expenditures include: registration fees, mid-year exam and end-of-year exams, school certificates, and school clothing. (WFP School Survey Report Nov, 2002)

¶16. In some remote areas, families also cover extra expenditures to include the cost of water and bread for teachers. These expenditures equal approximately USD 4.00 per student per year.

¶17. In addition, households take turns in providing meals to teachers from outside the district, which can be as much as USD 10-14 per student per year.